

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/011551



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NSK2629PCT	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/011551	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 September 2003 (10.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 September 2002 (13.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 1/20, F16C 29/04, 29/12, 25/08, F16D 3/06		
Applicant NSK LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
  
These annexes consist of a total of                      sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:  
  - I ☒ Basis of the report
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28 November 2003 (28.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 31 March 2004 (31.03.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/011551

## I. Basis of the report

### 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims:  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings:  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

### 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

### 4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

national application No.

PCT/JP 03/11551

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	5, 6, 8-11, 13	YES
	Claims	1-4, 7, 12	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	5, 6	YES
	Claims	1-4, 7-13	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

### 2. Citations and explanations

The invention set forth in claims 1 to 4, 7 and 12 lacks novelty in the light of document 1 (Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the Japanese Utility Model Application No. 27492/1991 (Laid-open No. 123775/1992) (Fuji Kiko Co., Ltd.), 10 November 1992 (Family: none)).

Document 1 (particularly [fig. 3] and paragraph [0011], etc.) sets forth a vehicle steering telescopic shaft the same as the invention set forth in this application.

The invention set forth in claims 8 to 10 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1.

Determining the interval at which the "preloading sections" are disposed is a matter which would be determined as necessary by a person skilled in the art according to the shape of the "male shaft", etc.

The invention set forth in claim 11 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1.

Rolling elements comprising spherical bodies are merely a known feature in vehicle steering telescoping shafts (see, for example, JP 2001-50293 A (NACAM France SA), 23 February 2001 & EP 1065397 A & US 6343993 A, JP

2000-38142 A (Daimler Chrysler AG.), 8 February 2000 & DE 19824477 A, etc.).

The invention set forth in claim 13 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 2 (JP 11-311256 A (NSK Ltd.), 9 November 1999 (Family: none)).

Document 2 (paragraph [0032] and [fig. 3]) sets forth a feature wherein "the outer peripheral part of the male shaft" or the "inner peripheral part of the female shaft" are formed of a solid lubricating membrane.